



Program Criteria Comparison

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK and VERMONT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP



National Environmental Performance Track and the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership are voluntary programs designed to foster and reward environmental excellence. Performance Track is a national EPA program and the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership is a statewide Department of Environmental Conservation and Small Business Development Center program. This fact sheet summarizes and compares criteria for the Performance Track Program and the Environmental Leader level of the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership (the program has two levels: Environmental Partner and Environmental Leader). For additional information on these programs or incentives, see program web sites or contact program coordinators.

Common Program Criteria:

- *EMS Components:* Common elements include: an EMS with a written policy, planned targets and goals, clear roles and responsibilities for meeting goals, plans for checking and correcting non-conformance issues, and documented management review.
- *Past Performance:* Facility must demonstrate past performance improvements.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make a commitment to future performance improvements.
- *Community Outreach:* Facility must provide a plan to identify and respond to local concerns and inform community of important matters that affect it.
- *Compliance Record:* Facility must have a strong environmental compliance record.
- *Annual Report:* Facility must describe performance improvements.
- *Membership Term:* Membership is for three years.

Vermont Business Environmental Partnership - Environmental Leader - Additional Criteria:

- *Mentoring:* Facility may choose to host or participate in an educational event that informs other facilities about good environmental management and pollution prevention, and also serve as an ongoing resource for other facilities to help improve environmental management.
- *Site Visits:* Application review includes site visit.

Performance Track - Additional Criteria:

- *EMS Self-Assessment:* Facility must conduct regular EMS self-assessments and compliance audits.
- *EMS Independent Assessment:* An independent EMS assessment is to have taken place at the time of application.
- *EMS Cycle:* Facility must have completed one full EMS cycle including implementation, evaluation, and review.
- *Past Performance:* Facility must demonstrate performance improvements for two environmental indicators (one indicator for small facilities). Commitments must be reported in a standard format and performance for most commitments must be normalized.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make a commitment to future performance improvements for four environmental indicators from at least two unique categories (two indicators for small facilities). Commitments must be reported in a standard format and performance for most commitments must be normalized.
- *Annual Report:* Report must include EMS data and progress toward meeting goals, and include documentation that corrective action has been taken to address compliance and other EMS issues.
- *Community References:* Facility must provide community references (e.g., member of a citizen group, union, local agency).
- *Compliance Record:* Facility must pass a comprehensive compliance screen covering federal, state, and local regulations.
- *Self-Certification:* Senior facility manager must certify that all statements in application and annual reports are true, accurate, and complete.
- *Site Visits:* Periodic site visits are conducted as part of the program.

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